*License fees on beedi and beedi tobacco.*

360. *MR. N. ABDUR RAHIMAN SAHIB (*Nominated*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) the revenue collected by the Excise Department in 1109 and 1110 by way of license fees on beedi and beedi tobacco from retail as well as wholesale merchants in the State ;

(*b*) whether they or the Excise Commissioner received representations from merchants complaining of the hardships caused to petty beedi-makers on account of the imposition of the new license fees ; and

(*c*) what action has been taken thereon ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*) :

(*a*) A *statement giving the required information is laid on the table.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) This does not arise in view of the answer to part (*b*).

*Import of Ganja.*

361. *MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*) : Will the Government be pleased to state the total quantity and value of ganja imported into the State during the years 1108, 1109 and 1110 ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*) : A †statement giving the required information is laid on the table.

*Cultivation of Ganja.*

362. *MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*) : Will the Government be pleased to state whether there are places in Travancore suitable for the cultivation of ganja ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*) : Yes.

*Prevention of tobacco smuggling and illicit tapping.*

363. *MR. A S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether they have received a memorial dated 20-8-1110 and despatched on 2-12-1110 from the inhabitants of most of the *Karas* in the Vadayar and Mulakkulam *pakuthies* in Vaikam taluk praying for the strengthening of the Police and the Excise forces on the borders of Travancore for effective prevention of tobacco smuggling, illicit tapping, etc., and

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, the steps taken on the same ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The matter has all along engaged the serious consideration of Government, and hence no special action was taken on the petition.

*Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors in the Excise Department.*

364. *MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

*Vide Appendix X.

†Vide Appendix XI.

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(*a*) whether any proportion has been fixed in the recruitment of Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors in the Excise Department as between graduates and non-graduates;

(*b*) if so, what is the proportion; and

(*c*) whether the same proportion is observed in the case of fresh recruitments and in the case of promotions from subordinate grades?

**MR. T. C. THOMMEN** (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The proportion of graduates to non-graduates is 3 to I.

(*c*) Yes.

*Appointment of Excise Inspectors.*

365. * **MR. K. PADMANABHAN** (*Chirayinkil I*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the principle hitherto followed by them in the matter of appointing Excise Inspectors; and

(*b*) whether there has been a deviation from the usual practice and principles in recent times?

**MR. T. C. THOMMEN** (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Appointment of Inspectors was made by means of promotion from the lower grades.

(*b*) The same principle is still followed. But recently it has been decided that competent graduates should be preferred to under-graduates who may even happen to be senior to such graduates and that the proportion of graduates to under-graduates in appointing Inspectors should be as 3:1.

*Tobacco smuggling in Manjoor.*

366. * **MR. V. K. VELAPPAN NAIR** (*Vaikam*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have received any representations from the people of Velloor, Melvelloor, etc., Vaikam, about the troubles they have to suffer from the tobacco smugglers of Manjoor and neighbouring places; and

(*b*) whether any enquiry was conducted?

**MR. T. C. THOMMEN** (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The member is referred to the answer to part (*b*) of interpellation No. 368.

*Statement, by caste, of appointments.*

367. * **MR. G. NILAKANTAN** (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state the number of persons, by caste, appointed during the past two years as Excise Inspectors?

**MR. T. C. THOMMEN** (*Secretary to Government*): A *statement showing the number of persons, by caste, appointed during the past two years as Excise Inspectors is placed on the table.

*Promotion of Excise Officer as Co-operative Inspector.*

368. * **MR. N. ABDUR RAHIMAN SAHIB** (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is any instance of a Petty Officer or Sub Inspector from the Excise Department being promoted as Co-operative Inspector?

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* Vide Appendix XII.

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